

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior claim listings:

1-2. (CANCELED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[2]] 29 further determining the individual's propensity to eczema.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[2]] 29 wherein the individual is an infant.

5-16. (CANCELED)

17. (WITHDRAWN) A genetic marker for an individual with a food allergy, the marker comprising a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in at least two of a V75 allele of a IL-4R α gene, a Q130 allele of a IL-13 gene, and a T allele of a CD14 promoter.

18. (WITHDRAWN) The marker of claim 17 wherein the SNP in the T allele of the CD14 promoter is -159 C→T .

19. (WITHDRAWN) A genetic marker for an individual with a food allergy, the marker consisting essentially of a -159 C→T polymorphism in a CD14 promoter.

20. (WITHDRAWN) A genetic marker for an individual with a food allergy, the marker comprising VV(I75V)-RQ(IL13 RI30Q)-TT(-159C→T).

21. (WITHDRAWN) A genetic marker according to claim 20, the marker consisting essentially of VV(I75V)-RQ(IL13 RI30Q)-TT(-159C→T).

22. (WITHDRAWN) A genetic marker according to claim 20 or 21 wherein the food allergy is a peanut allergy.

23. (WITHDRAWN) A genetic marker for an individual with a milk allergy, the marker comprising VV(I75V)-TT(-159C→T).

24. (WITHDRAWN) A genetic marker according to claim 23 the marker comprising VV(I75V)-TT(-159 C→T).

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for identifying an individual with of determining an individual's propensity to a peanut allergy, the method comprising

screening nucleic acid of the individual for the presence of the a combination of markers

VV(175V) RQ(IL13-R130Q) TT(-159C→T) which results in QR at position 130 of the polypeptide of IL-13, VV at position 75 of the IL-4R α polypeptide, and TT at position -159 of the CD 14 promoter, and

identifying the individual as having an increased propensity to a peanut allergy if the combination of markers is present.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for identifying an individual with of determining an individual's propensity to a milk allergy comprising

screening nucleic acid of the individual for the presence of the a combination of markers

VV(175V) TT(-159C→T) which results in VV at position 75 of the IL-4R α polypeptide and TT at position -159 of the CD 14 promoter, and

identifying the individual as having an increased propensity to a milk allergy if the combination of markers is present.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for identifying an individual with of determining an individual's propensity to a food allergy, the method comprising

screening nucleic acid of the individual for the presence of homozygous mutant type TT(-1

59C→T) TT at position -159 of the CD 14 promoter marker, and

identifying the individual as having an increased propensity to a food allergy if the marker is present.

28. (NEW) A method to determine an individual's propensity to a food allergy, the method comprising

identifying the individual as having an increased propensity to a food allergy if at least one of genotype combination (i) or genotype combination (ii) is present in at least one cell in the individual, where

genotype combination (i) is a genotype which results in VV at position 75 of the IL-4R α polypeptide and QR at position 130 of the IL-13 polypeptide, and

genotype combination (ii) is the genotype which results in QR at position 130 of the IL-13 polypeptide and is TT at position -159 of the CD 14 promoter.

29. (NEW) A method to determine an individual's propensity to a food allergy, the method comprising

determining the presence of an allele combination comprising a genotype which results in V at polypeptide position 75 of IL-4R α , Q at polypeptide position 130 of IL-13, and T at nucleotide position -159 of CD14 promoter in at least one cell in the individual, wherein the presence of the allele combination indicates the individual's increased propensity to a food allergy.

30. (NEW) A method to determine an individual's propensity to a food allergy, the method comprising identifying the individual as having an increased propensity to a food allergy if at least one of single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) combination (i) or SNP combination (ii) is present in at least one cell in the individual, where

SNP combination (i) is a SNP which results in VV at position 75 of the IL-4R α polypeptide and a SNP which results in QR at position 130 of the IL-13 polypeptide, and

SNP combination (ii) is a SNP which results in QR at position 130 of the IL-13 polypeptide and a SNP which results in TT at position -159 of the CD 14 promoter.

31. (NEW) A method of enhancing determination of an individual's propensity to a food allergy, the method comprising

analyzing at least one cell of the individual to determine a genotype at at least two gene loci to enhance association between the genotype in the individual and the phenotype of a food allergy in the individual, where the genotype of the IL-13 gene at a position which corresponds to position 130 of the polypeptide is determined, and the genotype of at least one of the IL-4R α gene at a position which corresponds to position 75 of the polypeptide or position -159 of the promoter of the CD 14 gene is determined,

wherein the presence of a genotype which results in QR at position 130 of the polypeptide of IL-13 and at least one of a genotype which results in VV at position 75 of the IL-4R α polypeptide or a genotype which is TT at position -159 of the CD 14 promoter provides an enhanced determination of an individual's propensity to a food allergy.

32. (NEW) The method of claim 31 further comprising a three-locus analysis wherein the presence of a genotype which results in QR at position 130 of the polypeptide of IL-13, a genotype which results in VV at position 75 of the IL-4R α polypeptide, and a genotype which is TT at position -159 of the CD 14 promoter provides an enhanced determination of an individual's propensity to a food allergy.